

Firemen Keep City Insurance Rate Low

Property holders in Camas enjoy the lowest insurance rates of any city of this size in the state of Washington. This has been brought about through the efficiency of the local fire department and the high quality of its equipment.

And this condition has not come through excessive costs to local taxpayers. Cost of protection by the fire department here in Camas averages \$2.26 per person per year, while the national per person cost is \$2.65. Yet the national fire loss per person last year averaged \$2.75, while the loss per person in Camas was but 23 cents.

The Camas fire department was organized in December, 1923. Charles Atkins became the first paid fireman in 1929. The following year Lawrence Beauchamp joined the department. Earl Jones replaced Atkins in 1935, and in January, 1937, Glen Cooper was hired as the third full-time man. Since May, 1936, the department has been under civil service.

To fill the need for first aid and ambulance equipment in Camas, firemen in 1935 started a drive to raise money to buy a car that could be used for that purpose. Funds were secured by popular subscription, and on May 4 of that year the first aid car was delivered. Complete with first aid equipment, it also carries a cot so that it can be used as an ambulance in emergency cases. In the three years it has been in service, more than 150 calls have been answered, in cases of drowning, auto accident, emergency operation, and many others.

Principal equipment of the department consists of two trucks, a 750-gallon American LaFrance pumper and a 100-gallon GMC pumper. In 1937, 55 fire calls were answered.

Besides the three full time men, the

Camas department is made up of 25 volunteers. C. M. Koplin is president of the department, Dick Huycke is chief, Harry Allen is assistant chief and Lawrence Beauchamp is secretary. Other volunteers are Charles Atkins, T. J. Butler, George Caine, Harry Clapp, Bud Hall, Bob Hetherington, W. M. Kouts, Kenneth Lawther, Gus Lorenz, Jim McEnry, C. B. O'Dell, Earl Paul, B. J. Pillette, Frank Province, Herman Rickard, J. W. Scott, Frank Smalley, O. T. Smith, Bart Tidland, C. M. Timmons, D. R. Whittier, and Earl Zesiger.